

Committee Secretary
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

February 2nd 2008

**Re: Submission against Plebiscite for an Australian Republic Bill
2008**

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my personal opinion regarding the proposal for a plebiscite on the topic of Australia becoming a Republic.

Firstly this plebiscite is a complete waste of money at such a delicate period for the Australian economy. Prime Minister Kevin Rudd is already talking about Australia being destined for a deficit and at a time like this we simply cannot afford this plebiscite. Given the state of our struggling health system and police services, to name but two examples, wouldn't this money be better allocated so that an Australian taxpayer can receive surgery faster or a working family could have a police crew respond to their request for assistance in a reasonable time frame?

Secondly, this focus of this plebiscite is a matter that has already been extensively debated and voted on by the Australian people. In 1999 the issue of an Australian Republic was fiercely debated and the end result was that Australian's massively rejected the Republican argument. Australians chose to keep their constitutional monarchy, a system that has served them so very well for over a century.

Additionally, Australians do not trust politicians. Politicians come and go, as do political parties and their leaders but the Crown has remained quietly providing the checks and balances that has kept Australia a strong and vibrant democracy. Why would Australians want to hand

over more power to politicians, the people they do not trust? In Australia we have an unelected effective head of state who carries out their position without the influence of big business or the shackles of a political party. If Australia were to become a Republic what would replace the checks and balances the Crown provides?

Thank you in advance for considering my submission.

Tristan J. Rogers

Deputy State Chairman
Queensland Branch
Australian Monarchist League